



State of Indiana
Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning

Suboxone Concerns in Jails

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Background

- Letter received January 23, 2017 from Marion County Sheriff's Office.
- Buprenorphine film products (SUBOXONE) is among the leading contraband items entering their secure facilities.
- The paper thin, pliable formulation is easy to hide and pass from individual to individual in the detention facilities.
- Request to reconsider Indiana Medicaid's current coverage policies for the filmstrip formulation.



Suboxone Filmstrip





Reported Ways Suboxone Filmstrips are Smuggled into Detention Facilities

- Hems of clothing.
- Shoe soles.
- Paper, envelopes, and mail.
- Book pages and bindings.
- Candy wrappers.



Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- FDA-approved medications include:
 - Naltrexone
 - Methadone
 - Buprenorphine-containing products
 - Buprenorphine
 - Buprenorphine/Naloxone



Coverage Criteria for MAT with Buprenorphine-containing

- Requires Prior Authorization.
- Approval for up to 6 months / 34-day supply per fill.
- Buprenorphine approved for 34 days, unless pregnant.
- Patient > 15 years of age.
- Prescriber must meet Federal, State, Local Qualifications to Prescribe for MAT.
- Prescriber must explain risk of BUP TX with EtOH & BZD.
- Prescriber must verify no untreated/unstable psych DX.
- Prescriber must provide evidence of referral or active involvement of member in substance abuse counselling.
- Daily dose cannot be greater than 24mg (Zubsolv 17.1mg).



Renewal Criteria for MAT with Buprenorphine-containing

- Demonstration of consistent use of BUP during prior 6 months.
- Prescriber must provide documentation of 2 acceptable forms of drug tests from past 6 months that are negative for opiates.
- Prescriber must provide documentation supporting patient's consistent participation in formal counselling.
- Prescriber must provide documentation indicating patient is receiving ongoing behavioral health care for coexisting BH DX.
- Prescriber must provide justification for prescribing other controlled substances used concurrently.
- Daily dose cannot be greater than 24mg (Zubsolv 17.1mg)



Conclusion

- Allegations that Suboxone is being smuggled into facilities and paid for by Medicaid dollars is unsubstantiated.
- Indiana Medicaid criteria for coverage of Suboxone for MAT is appropriate and supports DMHA's "Best Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders".
- Randall Koester, Chief of Staff, DOC spoke before the Indiana Medicaid DUR Board, February 17, and reported:
 - 70-80% of those incarcerated have a HX of substance abuse.
 - Reducing the incarceration rates associated with drug addiction requires cohesive drug treatment options across communities throughout the State.
 - Opposes the removal of Suboxone filmstrip formulations.



Questions